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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/655,813	09/04/2003	Rory Claire	2257-1-3	8010

7590 12/06/2004

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EXAMINER

SHAW, ELIZABETH ANNE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3644

DATE MAILED: 12/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/655,813

Applicant(s)

CLAIRE, RORY

Examiner

Elizabeth A. Shaw

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 August 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wachs in view of Farmer (2003/0014824). Wachs shows a washing glove capable of conforming to both hands of a wearer composed of loops of material, i.e. terrycloth, having a first flexible side 10 with a first scrubbing texture, a second flexible side 11 with a second scrubbing texture, the sides being stitching together to provide a sheath for a hand. The glove also having a palmar receptacle 17 that receives and retains solid washing material 18 located over the central portion of the palm and the receptacle 17 is stitched about the marginal area for securement. The palmar receptacle allows water access to the washing material 18 and releases the material 18 onto the wet coat of a pet while providing separation distance between the pet and the hand in the glove. The washing material 18 being beneath a layer of scrubbing material 12 is considered to be impregnated in the scrubbing material 12. Wachs does not show the use of a receptacle on both sides of the glove or the use of different scrubbing textures. Farmer shows a bath mitt 30 having a first scrubbing texture 32 and a second different scrubbing texture 20 and a thumb portion 22. With respect to claim 10, to use the multiple scrubbing

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textures of Farmer with the glove of Wachs would have been obvious to one skilled in the art in order to provide differing levels of washing massage to the user. With respect to claim 2, to place a receptacle on both sides of the glove of the combination of Wachs and Farmer would have been obvious to one skilled in the art in order to provide washing material no matter which hand or side of the glove was being used.

Claims 24-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wachs in view of Farmer (2003/0014824) as applied to claim 10 above and further in view of Smith (2003/0097725). Smith shows a cleaning cloth 10 having a washing surface 12 containing at least one impregnated cleaning ingredient 16 releasable during use. With respect to claims 24-27, to use the impregnated cleaning ingredient of Smith with the bath mitt combination of Wachs and Farmer would have been obvious to one skilled in the art in order to avoid the need to have cleaner available or to move the cleaner from one side of the mitt to the other.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 2-26 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

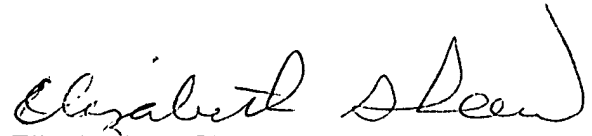
### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Included for further reference on washing gloves is: Kroha (6,264,391). Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Elizabeth A. Shaw whose telephone number is 703-308-1853. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 9:00-4:30.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Teri Luu can be reached on 703-305-7421. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Elizabeth A. Shaw  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3644

November 23, 2004



TERI PHAM LUU  
SUPERVISORY  
PRIMARY EXAMINER